

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11-15, 17, 18, and 20-27 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-10, 16, and 19 have been canceled; claims 11-15, 17-18, and 20-22 have been amended; and claims 23-27 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

In Section 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to mention, in the description section, reference designation S21 shown in Figure 7 and reference designation S56 shown in Figure 12. The Specification has been amended to include these reference designations, thereby obviating these objections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

In Section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of the informalities. The Specification has been amended, thereby obviating these objections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 11, 15, and 20 because of informalities. Claims 11, 15, and 20 have been amended, thereby obviating these objections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

§112 Rejection of Claims 2, 6, and 9-10

In Section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 6, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

§102 Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, and 9

In Section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hawkins *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,005,561; hereinafter referred to as “Hawkins”). Claims 1-10 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

§103 Rejection of Claims 2, 5, and 8

In Section 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins. Claims 1-10 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

§103 Rejection of Claims 10, 13-16, 19, and 22

In Section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 10, 13-16, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins, in view of Browne *et al.* (WO 92/22983; hereinafter referred to as Browne).

Claims 10, 16, and 19 have been canceled. Claims 13-15 have been amended to depend from claim 11, which has been rewritten in allowable independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim. Claim 22 has also been amended to include all the limitations of allowable claim 11. Therefore, claims 13-15 and 22 should be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter of Claims 11-12, 17-18, and 20-21

It is appreciatively noted that, in Section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 11-12, 17-18, and 20-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 11-12, 17-18, and 20-21 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 11-12, 17-18, and 20-21 should be allowable.

Newly-added claims 23-27

Newly-added claims 23-27 should be allowable since these claims dependent from claims 12, 18, and 21, which have been rewritten in independent allowable form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 11-15, 17-18, 20-22, and 23-27 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes

were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.


In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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